## **NEWS – CONGRESSMAN PETE STARK**

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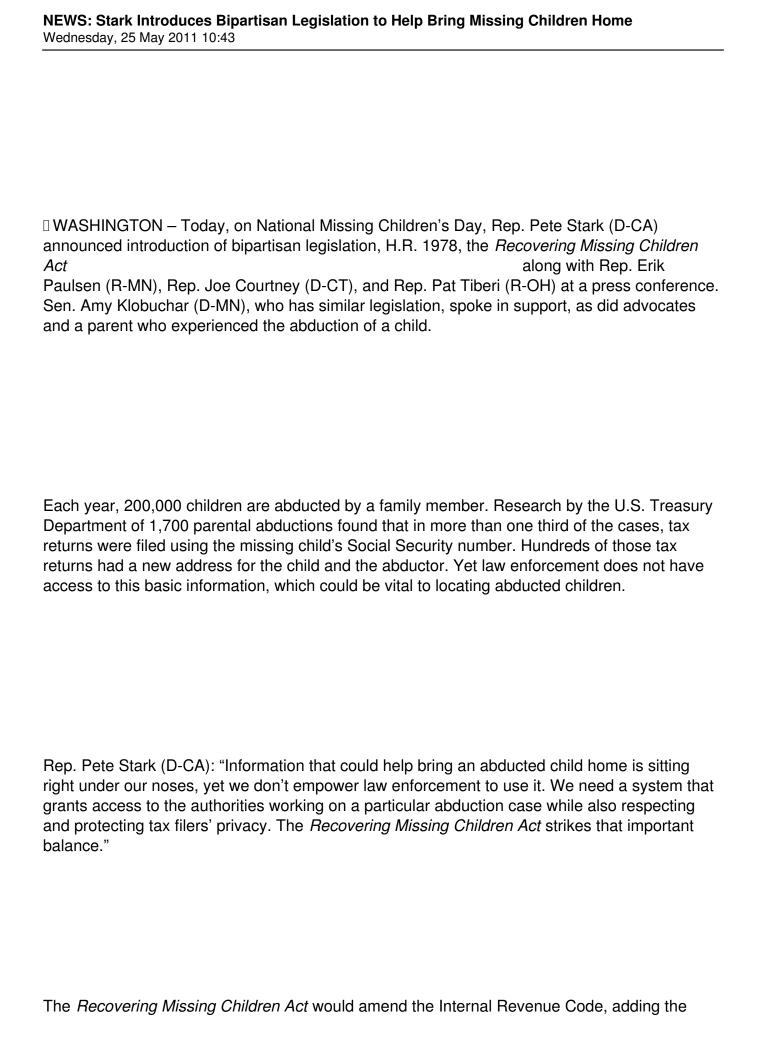
## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wednesday, May 25, 2011 Contact: Sarah Baldauf – (202) 225-3202

**BIPARTISAN, BICAMERAL SUPPORT FOR BILL TO** 

## HELP BRING MISSING CHILDREN HOME

Law Enforcement Would Have Access to Critical Information on Tax Forms



case of a missing child to the current list of exceptions that allow the release of IRS tax return information. To ensure that taxpayers' rights to privacy are protected, the legislation requires a federal court order for information from tax forms to be released. The release of such information would be limited to federal, state and local law enforcement agents who are personally and directly involved in the investigation of a missing child. The <a href="National Sheriffs Association has endorsed the legislation">National Sheriffs Association has endorsed the legislation</a> and the

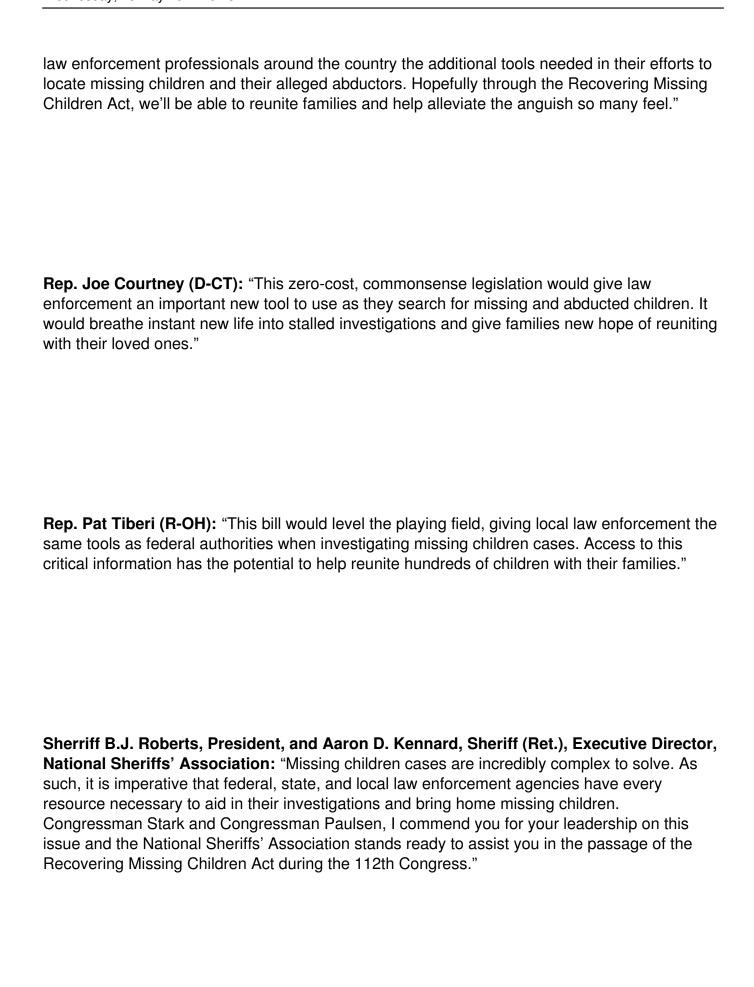
Association of Missing and Exploited Children's Organizations has also endorsed the legislation

Sen. Klobuchar (D-MN): "As a former prosecutor, I know that one of law enforcement's highest priorities is working to recover missing children. This is a commonsense way to cut red tape and provide police and prosecutors access to critical information that would help bring missing children home."

In March, Klobuchar chaired a Senate Judiciary Committee hearing examining ways to help law enforcement in their search for missing children. At the hearing, Klobuchar renewed her call to pass her legislation, the *Access to Information about Missing Children Act*, which would help federal, state, and local law enforcement locate missing children whose whereabouts could be discovered through basic information on federal tax returns.

**Statements on the Recovering Missing Children Act:** 

**Rep. Erik Paulsen (R-MN):** "Every year close to 200,000 children are victims of family abductions. I am honored to join with my colleagues in co-sponsoring legislation that will give



**Mika Moulton, parent:** "As a parent who experienced a years-long nightmare trying to track down my children who had been abducted by their father, I can tell you that the Recovering Missing Children Act is needed. This piece of legislation is not only important for helping law enforcement recover missing kids, it is critical for the wellbeing of our nation's children."

Ernie Allen, President of the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children: "In 2007 the Treasury Department's Inspector General searched a sample of missing child cases for possible information in tax returns that would help us find the children. The results were stunning. The IG found new addresses for 46% of the missing children and 34% of the abductors. Yet, law enforcement has been unable to gain access to that information. Changing the law to allow such access will bring more missing children home. We are deeply grateful to Congressman Stark and bipartisan leaders of the House and Senate and enthusiastically support this common sense change."

Wendy Jolley-Kabi, Executive Director, Association of Missing and Exploited Children's Organizations: "The Association of Missing and Exploited Children's Organizations applauds the effort of Reps. Stark, Courtney, Paulsen and Tiberi to permit the use of tax return information in the investigation and prosecution of missing child cases. We must not accept that the federal government may already possess information about where specific missing children are located while federally funded programs continue to search for those same children. Likewise we cannot justify that child abductors report their contact details to the IRS while law enforcement agencies across the country seek to bring those very fugitives to justice. It is imperative that we work together and use all available resources to help bring missing children home."

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